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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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46

State Dept. review completed

28 October 1970

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Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79T00975A017400120001-5

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79T00975A017400120001-5

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No. 0258/70
28 October 1970

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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NORTH VIETNAM: The authorities have mounted another law-and-order campaign.

Two new decrees were issued last week that deal with criminal abuses of both state-owned and private property--problems that have been troubling the regime for some time.

The state property law is designed to crack down on a wide variety of offenses ranging from petty thievery and wastefulness to misappropriation by officials; it inveighs against "professional crooks and ringleaders" and officials who exploit their position and power. The little information that has seeped out of North Vietnam suggests that corruption is fairly widespread and is common knowledge. Hanoi may be serious this time in trying to do something about the problem; the party newspaper promised stern judgments against violators and said that the party and army are bent on eradicating the problem.

These laws follow a general increase in regime propaganda on law and order including a hard-hitting editorial in the army newspaper last month. The campaign presumably is directed against a problem of some consequence, at least in the eyes of the regime, but it is hard to pin down how serious it is or how much it undercuts North Vietnamese performance in areas that count, like the war and economy. Corruption doubtless affects popular morale, and it may be this kind of consideration that has triggered Hanoi's latest law-and-order drive.

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CANADA - COMMUNIST CHINA: A new wheat agreement calls for the delivery of 2.5 million tons to China in 1971.

This contract represents about a ten percent increase in Canadian sales compared with shipments this year. China, whose total annual imports of wheat have been running between 4.0 and 4.5 million tons, is also likely to make purchases from Australia, its other main source of supply. Canberra, however, may now find itself supplying smaller quantities.

China's own wheat harvest has been good this year. Imports, as in the past, will be used to augment food supplies in the large coastal cities of north and eastern China.

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USSR-TURKEY-US: Yesterday's hijacking of a Soviet civil aircraft from the USSR to Turkey could complicate the release of the American and Turkish military officers presently held in the Soviet Union.

According to preliminary reports, two Russian youths diverted a small plane from a domestic flight in the USSR to Sinop, Turkey. The plane carried only one other passenger and the pilot, both Russian. There were no injuries as a result of the incident. The two hijackers have asked for asylum, while the pilot and third passenger have asked to return to the USSR.

Presumably, as in the case of the hijacking of a plane from the USSR to Turkey on 15 October, Moscow will ask for the immediate return of the hijackers and other persons aboard the plane. So far, at least, the Soviets have not linked the return of the first set of hijackers to the release of the American and Turkish military officers being detained in the USSR. Moscow's official protest to Washington over that incident, in fact, suggested that the Soviets were planning to treat the issues separately. Should Ankara again deny Soviet requests for early extradition of the hijackers, however, Moscow might move to relate the return of the hijackers to the fate of the military officers.

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IRELAND: Prime Minister Lynch is likely to overcome a challenge to his leadership by party dissidents today, but efforts to oust him will continue.

The challenge comes from ex-ministers Haughey and Blaney, who were ousted from the cabinet last May as a result of their opposition to Lynch's policy of reunification of Ireland by peaceful means. The dissidents' political stock has been boosted by the acquittal last week of Haughey and three others before the High Court. They had been charged with illegally conspiring to import arms and ammunition into Ireland for use by Republicans in Northern Ireland. After his acquittal, Haughey told a press conference that the trial was a political one, which had done great harm to Ireland's reputation, and implied that the prime minister should resign.

Lynch has issued a strong statement saying that he is not prepared to step down. He reiterated that Fianna Fail's aims are reunification of Ireland by peaceful means and that he would not accept Haughey rejoining his government.

Because both Lynch and the dissidents wish to avoid a general election, the immediate challenge will probably occur within the Fianna Fail parliamentary group of 75 deputies, who meet today. The exact strength of the dissidents is not known but is thought to be around ten. Their efforts to win support against Lynch are likely to fail because he still appears to command support from a majority of Fianna Fail party workers and deputies, and his opponents will have difficulty advancing a credible alternate leadership.

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ECUADOR: The government has taken strong measures in response to the kidnaping of General Rohon.

Still unidentified assailants abducted the air force commander early yesterday morning. The timing of the kidnaping--during celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of the air force attended by several foreign military delegations--will be especially embarrassing to the administration.

The government has issued arrest orders for suspected terrorists and prominent leftists, the capital has been sealed off, and all plane flights have been halted. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Late yesterday the government declared martial law across the nation, instituted an evening curfew, and also posted a reward of \$40,000 for information leading to the whereabouts of General Rohon.]

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The kidnaping, the first in several years, will give further impetus to the government's offensive against administration opponents, which has been under way since Velasco assumed dictatorial powers in June. The President's heavy-handed methods have aroused significant resentment, especially in Guayaquil, where he removed the popular mayor and exiled the prefect of the province last month. The military, which supports the President, has kept the discontent well in hand, and arrests of opposition politicians are continuing.

Velasco probably believes that a strong stand would ensure continued military support and give him a free hand to deal with both the small subversive groups in the country and his legitimate political opponents. [redacted]

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BAHAMAS: Prime Minister Pindling's chances of retaining control over his party are increasingly slim.

Minister of Education Wallace-Whitfield's resignation, announced at the annual convention of the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) that ended last week, has set the stage for a struggle for control of the party and government. The opposition has demanded Pindling's immediate resignation, citing the deteriorating economic situation, the apparent lack of confidence among foreign investors, and Pindling's dictatorial attitude. Dissident PLP members and opposition elements have pooled their strength and require only three more members to carry a vote of no confidence.

Pindling is not expected to give up easily, however. Although he has been able to extricate himself deftly from past difficulties, it now appears that the opposition is as determined to remove him as he is to stay.

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LIBYA: Deputy Premier Jallud insists that the only way to peace in the Middle East is unilateral Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

Jallud, in a conversation with the US ambassador, criticized Nasir's acceptance of the 1967 UN resolution on the Middle East. He said only Nasir could have obtained Arab acquiescence in the resolution; with his death, the only possible way to peace is increased Arab resolve to force Israeli withdrawal. He concluded that war may eventually be necessary to bring this about.

Jallud, repeating the standard Arab accusation of "full US support for Israel," stated bluntly that the only reason the Arabs had not retaliated against US interests in the Middle East was because they had not found a way to do so without harming their own interests.

His presentation was at least partly aimed at reminding the US of Libya's radical Arab stance. At the same time, however, Jallud's tirade may imply that Libya hopes to take the lead in forcing a more militant policy toward Israel.

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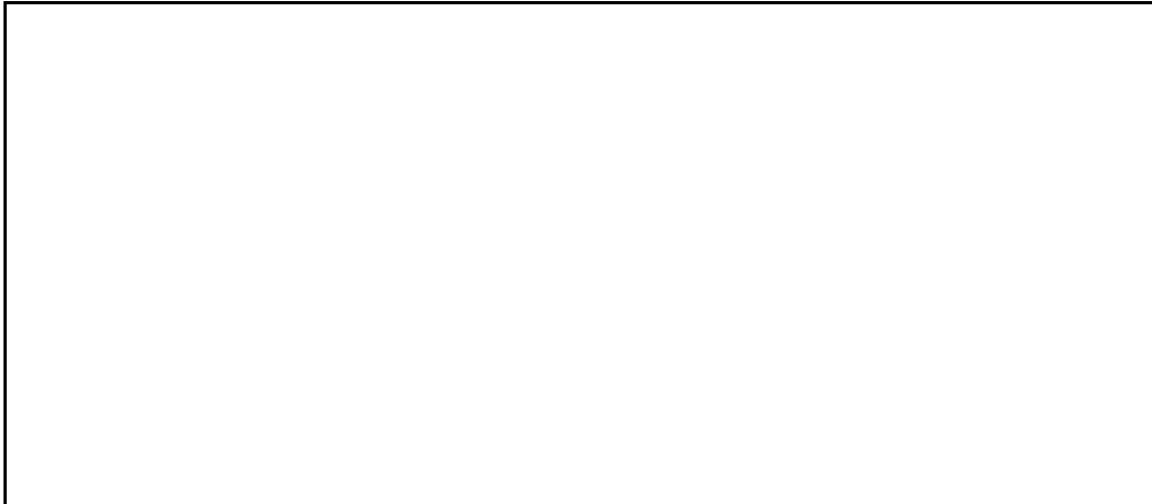
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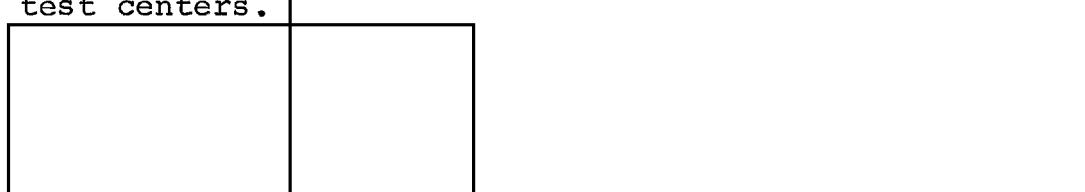
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USSR: The Soviets plan to conduct extended-range ICBM tests into a Pacific Ocean impact area between 28 October and 30 November. Yesterday TASS announced the upcoming series of "carrier rocket" tests, requesting foreign governments to keep ships and aircraft clear of the impact area during a specified period each day. The impact area, some 500 miles northwest of Midway Island, is approximately 4,700 miles from the Tyuratam and Plesetsk missile test centers.



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THAILAND - NORTH VIETNAM: Thai and North Vietnamese Red Cross officials are making some progress in their negotiations over the repatriation of some 40,000 Vietnamese refugees still remaining in north-east Thailand. The two delegations have met eight times since the talks resumed in Bangkok after a five-year hiatus, and there has been general agreement on procedure. Although the meetings have provided a forum for Hanoi's representatives to air grievances about Thai treatment of the refugees, the North Vietnamese appear genuinely interested in portraying themselves as reasonable, and at least some form of limited repatriation is possible.

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COMMUNIST CHINA - TANZANIA - ZAMBIA: Construction of the Tan-Zam railroad was formally inaugurated on 26 October in Dar es Salaam, although work actually has been under way since July. Fang I, the chairman of Peking's Commission for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries, represented his country at the ceremony. Peking will provide \$400 million in credit to finance the construction of the 1,060-mile railroad from Zambia's copper mines to Dar es Salaam on Tanzania's coast. According to a press report, 4,700 Chinese personnel are currently working on the project. This figure is expected to rise to roughly 6,000 by the end of this year. Completion of the railroad is scheduled in 1975.

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NIGERIA: Lagos is cashing in on Libya's new arrangements with the oil companies. All but one of the oil firms operating in Nigeria are bound by their contracts to sweeten their arrangements with Nigeria if they improve their terms with other oil producing nations. Both Shell/BP, the largest producer in Nigeria, and Mobil are already raising their posted prices and the other companies probably will soon follow suit. Even before those new developments the Nigerian Government had expected its current annual oil revenues of \$280 million to double by 1973. [redacted]

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CONGO (K) - BELGIUM: The strain in Belgian-Congolese relations appears to have eased. Brussels became apprehensive after President Mobutu granted a mining concession in September to a US-led consortium, and the Congolese press took on an anti-Belgian slant. The US ambassador believes that anti-Belgian feeling now has waned, and the Belgian ambassador described a recent meeting with Mobutu as "very cordial." [redacted]

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PARAGUAY: The governing Colorado Party of President Alfredo Stroessner won 78 percent of the vote in nationwide municipal elections on Sunday. The Radical Liberal Party ran second, assuring that it will hold one third of the council seats in those municipalities where it presented candidates. Opposition spokesmen are charging widespread voting irregularities, but dishonesty was probably no greater than is normal in Paraguayan elections. The opposition's poor showing, however, is likely further to discourage party leaders, who believe that political "liberalization" in Paraguay is stagnating.

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